

9 In our Element

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Summary: Two groups, so different, yet so similar. This is the story of how they came together. Co-written with Autobot Aftershock

1. Chapter 1

Like it has done countless other times, night began to settle over the city. The eerie glow of dusk began to settle into the deep velvet black, punctured with tiny white dots of starlight. The city never slowed down in this transition from day to night. The busy bustle of the streets never slowed and wouldn't anytime soon. Also not a first here for this city never seemed to settle down. The streets were filled with noisy, honking vehicles as the impatient drivers in them wanted to get to their destinations and the sidewalks were filled with walkers as they made their way much slower to their destinations. Or faster depending on how bad the traffic was stuck.

On a lower level the subway still ran on it's set schedule, the trains rumbling along their tracks and setting tremors into motion that scared the more timid rats that infested these lower travel ways back into their holes. Only when the loud behemoths passed them and continued on did they come back out on their search for food, their noses twitching as they tried to sniff out dangers, and something yummy to eat.

And in the sewers the water still ran along the bottom of the tunnels. Following a path unchanged since these tunnels had been built and put into use. Trash and debris, most of it discarded carelessly in the streets above before it was washed down here, still floated idly down these subterranean waterways as the caretakers of these tunnels still made their routine rounds to make sure these filthy rivers still worked the way they were supposed to.

But in the city that never changes, there was a change that no one really noticed. Except for the underworld. But the fear of a possible return to the norm kept them in check, for now. It's silent guardians

that had watched over this city for many years were not to be found, and not because they were hiding in the shadows. It had been months now since they left their underground home.

No more did the alarms go off in the lair, Donnie had turned them off. No more did they rush out the door at odd hours to deal with the latest crisis. No more did they spend hours several nights a week patrolling the rooftops.

That part really didn't bother Leo as he sat in the living area, attempting to read a book. He had read quite a few of them since he and his brothers retired and settled down. He had thought that he would enjoy being able to sit down and read them now that he had the time to do so. The book was closed with a sigh before he placed it onto the coffee table. Leo just couldn't give it his full attention.

Truth be told, it was too still for him to read. There was no loud music blaring in his ears. The video games hadn't been pulled out much lately, because most of the ones who played them weren't here to compete with each other over the high scores. The tv itself was now set to a tolerable volume level, and wasn't playing one of those actioned packed explosive movies. There were no spats, squabbles or arguments over who got to play or watch what. No impromptu training sessions caused by one tackling the other, sending both hunter and hunted rolling across the floor. No youthful bodies hopping and flipping over the furniture when they could have just walked around. No piles of empty pizza boxes, precarious balanced towers of dirty dishes and half empty chip bags lying in wait under a couch cushion for an unsuspecting Leo to sit on and crunch. No popcorn being thrown at each other during movie night, not that they were watching the movie anyway over the horseplay. In short, there were no children.

They were living their own life now, and living it away from home. They had found a place to stay that accepts them, and even ones who love them. Leo should be thrilled that their life took such a turn, but he could not get used to this empty nest feeling. He couldn't even enjoy time with Dennis and Amy because they had been called to their grandparents in Louisiana to help with some chores that their Pawpaw couldn't do on his own anymore. And Leo had no clue really when they would be coming back. None of the children he raised were home, and it was bothering him very much.

Vicky walked into the living area, her brown eyes looking thoughtful at the turtle who shared her life before she walked over and sat down next to him on the couch. "You've been awfully quiet lately."

His blue eyes traveled the now so empty lair. "I miss them." He said simply. "I just can't get used to how quiet it is now with them gone."

"And here I was thinking you would enjoy the peace and quiet."

"I enjoy the presence of my children more." Leo let out a quiet sigh as he leaned into the couch and wrapped an arm around her shoulders. "I'm not so sure I like this change." At least he still had her in his life. That in itself was a blessing he would never take for granted again. Not after the last fiasco that had forced them into retirement.

Mikey came running by, his eyes wide with fright. "Leo! Heeeelp!"

The reason for his terrified expression came running by right behind him. "You little pain in my ass!" Raph bellowed. "I'll teach you to put tacks in my bed!"

And barely a moment later Cris joined in the chase, her hanbo already out and ready to use. "Come here you shithead! How about I drop your ass on them!"

Leo and Vicky just quietly watched them all run by, one after the other.

"Then again..." Vicky shook her head. "There are some things that never change..."

Leo just rolled his eyes at that as he got up off of the couch and went to go save his little brother from his current predicament.

The commotion this fiasco caused actually caught Donnie's attention enough to where he appeared out of his lab with Marina. He watched what was going on with raised eyeridges a moment before he spoke. "I know you said it would be good for us to retire and all Leo...but I think the forced inactivity is getting to some of us."

Marina crossed her arms, her head shaking at yet another Mikey caused disturbance. Which have been getting progressively worse. "You think? Cait can't even keep him out of trouble anymore."

Leo didn't answer, he was too busy tossing Cris to the couch where she landed into a sitting position on the cushion. She bounced a few times as Leo turned to try and wrestle Raph off of a squealing Mikey. He finally had to resort to grabbing the larger turtles shell and pulled back very hard, causing his red masked brother to go rolling backwards along the floor. At least his grip was finally off of Mikey, but it had taken Leo more effort than usual to separate the two.

Vicky rubbing her forehead, also clearly frustrated. "I think it's time we all got out of the lair for a bit. We've hardly done anything since we got home."

"And what exactly did you plan on us doing?" Leo almost snapped, a combination of unhappiness over the empty lair and his own frustration eating at him. "I told you we need to lay low. We've caused enough of a stir having to go dragon in public."

"Oh come on... I didn't say go out and kick thugs up and down the street. Just a little rooftop run. Donnie is right, some of us are starting to go stir crazy down here." She looked pointedly at Raph, Mikey and Cris. "And it won't be too much longer before the furniture starts to suffer for it. It has a bad habit of flying around and crashing into walls when this family gets pissed enough."

Leo looked over his family. He hated to admit it, but they were right. For years they had gone out on a regular basis and had never gone this long without going topside for patrol. It was then he realized that he wasn't the only one having a hard time adjusting to

the forced inactivity and quiet home. It was getting to all of them which was causing tempers, and mischievousness in Mikey, to flare up. This wasn't exactly what he wanted their life to be like either. He gave in with a deep sigh. "Fine... But I want it clearly understood that we are not going out to look for trouble. A short run, that's it."

He was immediately rewarded with excited, almost childlike grins on the faces of his family members.

"Can Cait come too?" Mikey asked. "It just doesn't seem right to leave her behind. There really isn't a reason for her to stay and she'd be here all by herself."

"Yes Mikey, she can come if she wants."

His little brother let out an excited whoop and ran off to go find his wife, then came back just a few moments later dragging her by the arm. She was looking at him with her own look of exasperation and somehow Leo knew that even her unlimited patience was wearing thin with the prankster. Apparently Mikey didn't tell her why he was dragging her around the lair like a ragdoll.

The blue masked leader of this rambunctious group decided to take pity on the poor woman before Mikey pulled her arm out of her socket. "We are going topside Caitlin. And you are more than welcome to come join us if you wish."

Even she lost her grumpy face and a smile took its place. "If it's not too much trouble. I know I'm not as good as that rooftop hopping as the rest of you." She laughed a little. "Heck, even Amy is better at it than I am."

Leo gave her an encouraging smile. "It's fine Cait. We'll help you along. Mikey does have a point, there is no need to leave you here all by yourself."

"Then I would love to come!" Her green eyes were now sparkling with excitement.

"Go get ready. All of you." Those few words sent his family scurrying in all kinds of directions. The women to go get changed and the turtles gearing up, out of habit. Even on a short fun run they knew better than to go out unprepared.

It took them all less than half an hour to meet back up by the door, and the grumpy, tense mood that had hung in the lair like a cloud of doom was already lifting as the bickering had turned into playful banter.

"Can we go see April and Casey?" Mikey asked hopefully. "We swapped movies and I'd like to bring back the ones I borrowed."

"Yes Mikey." Leo began to walk to the door.

"I'd like to swing by the junk yard if it's not too much trouble." Donnie said. "It's been awhile since I've been able to scavenge for decent parts. Still have a few repairs left to do on the van."

"Of course." Leo opened the door and his family began to file

out.

"There is that new blade shop that opened up a couple streets over from the junk yard." Raph mused. "I'd like to scope it out if we have time."

"I'm sure we can fit it in." Leo followed his family out and firmly closed the door behind him and the echo of it sounded out into a now very quiet lair.

2. Chapter 2

The cool night air felt good as it pressed against my skin and through my braided hair. A wide smile was plastered on my face as I somersaulted forward, clearing a gap between two buildings before I landed in a forward roll. I came back to my feet, utterly delighted to be back out after months of inactivity. Leo ran along side me now, his own face sporting a smile as he set me up for another leap. The tension I saw on his face earlier this evening was gone and I could feel that he was beginning to enjoy himself. A lot.

After the Unicron incident, things took a turn in the abnormal for us. Our routine severely shaken up. First we spent months helping the bots to rebuild the base that was pretty much destroyed in the fight with the Heralds of Unicron. Only a few structures had remained standing, and they were very unstable. The whole place had to be rebuilt practically from the ground up. Took quicker than we expected it would to get it running to where the guys felt it was ok for us to return home. What was left to do was just minor fine tuning on all the systems and what not, and the bots could handle that on their own.

But in leaving, we also left our children behind. Each now grown turtle tot had found someone they had connected with. Not willing to rip the humans from their chosen profession at NEST, nor to settle on a long distance relationship with them, the teens had decided to stay on the base with their mates. And they were welcomed with open arms. Will, Epps and Prime all were happy to have the capable teens under their, unofficial, command. They existed there as ghosts. Not officially on the government payroll and they had been given their own tech by Donnie that they had linked into the bot's systems and by the time we headed for home, they were fully integrated into the NEST team. Heck, they accepted their first mission even as we rolled out towards home, towing the still not completely fixed up van.

And when we did get home, Leo enforced the decision he made. The guys settled down into their retirement. I understood why he decided on this, and he was in a way right. They still had the ability to turn into dragons and sooner or later one of them would get frustrated or tempted and turn into that large, graceful...and very hard to hide, dragon. That in return would bring who knows how many monster hunters in the city to look for them. That didn't mean the decision sat well with them. As we found out earlier, the forced inactivity was starting to unravel them, and us, a bit. The run tonight was actually doing us all a world of good.

"I have to admit...I did miss this..." Leo told me as we landed together. His blue eyes sparkling in the night.

I laughed in my own enjoyment, both at being out and his better mood. "You've been doing it for so long, you just can't turn it off Leo."

I got a rueful shrug as an answer.

"Hey!" Caitlin called from behind us. "Wait up a minute!"

"Why? What's up?" I asked as we all skidded to a stop.

Caitlin was leaning over the side of the building we were on, looking intently down to the street before she pointed. "Nothing. I just want to go look at something is all."

I walked curiously over to see what had her attention, and rolled my eyes. "Really..." I asked her in a flat tone as I looked away from the bridal store and back to her. "Come on Cait. I don't think any of them are ready for that just yet."

Her delicate face took on a pouting expression. "I just want to look..."

The quiet chuckle Leo let out told me he fell for that look. "Go with her. We'll wait up here."

I rolled my eyes again and we dropped down with Caitlin. She let out this annoying girly squeal as she ran towards the large display window. Immediately she started gushing over everything she saw. And had to look at every single piece. "Oh! That dress would look lovely on Ari..." She pointed excitedly.

Cris groaned slightly as she walked over at a much slower pace.

"And that veil is so pretty!" Cait gushed next, her hands pressed to the window and her face almost smushed up against it.

Marina sighed as she stepped off of the street we crossed and up onto the curb.

"And look at those shoes!"

"Oh good god..." I muttered, rubbing my face.

Cris walked over to me and placed her elbow on my shoulder and leaned on me as we waited as Caitlin made her way slowly down the window. "And what about this one! Oh that tiara..."

"Anyone else already feeling sorry for Ari and Adam?" Marina asked calmly as she crossed her arms. Cris snickered as I tried not to roll my eyes again.

"I don't think we'll have to worry about bridezilla." I dryly replied. "It's momzilla who is-" I cut myself off. Something else had gotten my attention. The slightly amused sensation I was getting from Leo turned into shock, then anger before he just...turned off... I couldn't feel him anymore. My head snapped around to the rooftop they had been waiting on even as Caitlin and Marina did the same.

"I can't feel them..." Cait said quietly as her eyes went up. Marina nodded her agreement.

I was moving back across the street before she even finished, cursing violently as I did.

They were right on my tail as I frantically ran up the fire escape and we all skidded to a stop in shock to find an empty rooftop. The four turtles who should have been there, weren't. The only thing we found were their weapons scattered all over the roof.

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Leo opened his eyes and didn't like the situation he found himself in. He was strapped down, front first on a metal table. His arms extended out in front of him and his legs were also held tightly down. Confusion hit him a moment before everything came flooding back into his mind. One moment they were watching Caitlin, enjoying her excitement as she dreamed for what she hoped for would be the next step in her daughter's relationship, the next there had been a net thrown over him. A net that had been stronger than his attempts to get out of it, and it was encrusted with odd looking crystals. Crystals that burned him where they touched. The fully covered men then promptly unarmed the four of them before grabbing hold of the furious turtles, hitting something on their belts and somehow zapped them all to this place. Then Leo had been sedated.

Now he was lying on what he fully realized was an experient table. And he knew because he had seen to many in his life for his liking. Leo ignored the burning sensation that came from the areas he was strapped down at and began to furiously struggle.

"What the hell!" Raph roared, letting Leo know he was also awake. But Leo couldn't see him. Where ever he was, it wasn't in Leo's line of sight. The sounds of Raph jerking at his own restraints then met Leo's ears. "Somebody better get me off of this damn thing!"

"Yeah!" Mikey agreed, a hint of anger in his voice. "So not cool dudes!"

"But yet very amusing all the same to watch you four struggle." A smug voice replied.

Leo stopped, his eyes wide as he listened. He knew that voice, and it was one he thought he would never hear again. "Bishop..." He snarled.

"You should be rotting in hell!" A furious Raph snapped, his anger picking up.

"I should be yes, but I'm not." The smirking black clad man walked now into Leo's view, eyeballing the turtle with undisguised hatred. "You and your family have a lot to answer for."

"As do you." Leo snapped back, once again jerking on his restraints. This time he hissed in pain as they burned deeper into his wrists.

"I think I already paid my price." Bishop replied, his eyes narrowing. "And now it's time to pay yours." A scalpel he held in his

hand was brought into view. "You will now serve me."

"The hell we will!" This from the normally calm Donnie.

Leo tried to reach into himself, to pull out the dragon that hid deep within as a last ditch effort to free himself, and was shocked when he felt the connection he needed blocked from him. A very desperate Leonardo once again pulled at his restraints that refused to budge and held him firmly in place.

"Exactly, it will be hell for you, but you will." That evil gleam Leo had seen so many times came into Bishop's eyes. "You will serve me and do as I wish you to do." He stepped closer to Leo, hitting a hidden button on the table and a band snapped out to hold the thrashing head into place. "And by the time your family finds you, all they will be able to do is watch as I order you to tear them to pieces. That is a worthy enough reward for putting up with your meddling all those years."

"No!" Leo growled out one last time before the sting of the scalpel cut into the back of his neck.

"Oh yes." Leo barely heard him through the pain. "I will turn you against your own family, and there will be nothing you can do about it."

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"What do you mean you can't feel them!" I thundered at the two turtle trackers. "They have to be here somewhere!"

"Just that!" Marina snapped back. "They are nowhere in this area!"

"Or they are shielded." Caitlin said in a defeated tone as Cris drove the older van around the city for the countless time. "It's not the first time that's happened."

"Then you would be able to sniff out the boarders of the shield like you did last time!" I snipped. I was tired, hungry, frustrated and worried to no end. We had been on the move for hours trying to find them. Only taking short breaks at home to rest a little, eat a few bites while Marina and Caitlin tried to use Donnie's various computers to try and track something down. But even as well as those two knew him, they weren't Donnie and couldn't find anything. That in return led us back to the streets again to do it the old fashioned way.

I don't know how we kept this hectic pattern up for over a day now. And I also didn't know how much longer we could keep it up. All I could say with determination was that we weren't going to just give up and hope they make it back on their own. We left notes every time we went out, just in case they did show up. But so far? Nothing. It was like the earth had swallowed them whole and refused to spit them back out.

Caitlin was on the verge of tears now. a combination of her own worry and my harsh tone eating at her. I suddenly felt like such a damn

heel as I looked at her. She was trying just as hard as the rest of us. "Caitlin, I'm sorry hon. I really am."

She didn't answer but laid a hand on my arm as Cris guided the van down another road, hoping that this one would give us some kind of lead. It didn't.

3. Chapter 3

Titian sat in the new rec room, his feet casually on the low table in front of him as he bantered with Blaster who was sitting in one of the bot sized chairs nearby. The grey masked turtle felt at ease here, almost as much as he did at home. Of course the red haired Cindy might have a large part to do with that. She was the reason he chose to stay here, and she was also the one that made his homesickness bearable. Even after all the time he had spent here on this base, he still missed his parents, aunts and uncles.

He held firm though. The young leader of this group of walking terrapins still held the strong belief that it was time for them to live on their own, to make their own choices. His father couldn't shield him forever.

"No way." Ty disagreed with the red bot. "That songs sucks ass."

"It does not! It's very emotional."

"If you're high on drugs or something." A derisive snort sounded out of the twenty one year old. "It sounds like a banshee trying to scream for your soul."

"You just have no taste for music." Blaster grinned at him as he leaned back into the massive chair.

"Heavy metal is not music. It's a bunch of adult infants smashing pots and pans together." Ty crossed his arms as he made his point.

Blaster bust out laughing as Ty wagged his ridges at the bot.

The sister to this heavy metal hating young adult quietly entered the room. Ty looked at Lavi a bit concerned, her face was a bit pale he noticed. And her hands were shaking slightly. "What's wrong with you? You feeling ok?"

"My stomach has been feeling off all day." She quietly replied as she walked deeper into the room.

"You better let Tony check you out. Ratchet is still at that base in Hawaii."

Now she looked a little nervous as she stopped next to the couch. "I...ah...already did..."

"And? You caught a bug?"

His sister took a deep breath then and let it shakily back out. "More like a five month parasite..."

The vapid stare her brother gave her told Lavi quite clearly it was taking a minute for what she was telling him to sink in.

"I've been trying to call home..." She shook her head in mild frustration. "But no one is picking up."

Ty still just stared at her

"Will you stop staring at me like that!" Lavi finally snapped at her befuddled twin.

Ty shook himself out of his stupor. "They are probably on the farm dealing with the goats. I'm sure you'll get in touch with them later." He then gave her a wide grin. "You sure though?"

"Tony is." She replied with a small smile. "He wanted me to get Uncle Donnie to be certain."

"You tell Kyle yet?"

Now her expression went from a mild happy one to mild exasperation. "Yes." She flatly told him. "And Tony had to pick him up off of the floor."

The rec room was suddenly filled with the howling sounds of the two males as they took a vast amount of amusement from that.

"It's not funny!" Lavi fumed, which only made them laugh harder.

The only thing that cut off their laughter was Will as he came running into the room, his face even paler than Lavi's had been and a wild look in his wide eyes. "Please tell me I'm wrong..." The normally composed officer was struggling hard to hold onto his composure as he looked to them for answers they didn't even know the question to. Will just lifted the remote to the large tv off of the table Ty still had his feet on top of and turned it on, then switched it to a national news channel.

Ty shot to his feet at the images he saw flashing across the screen under the red and white "Breaking News" banner that scrolled across the top. The blood drained from his face and his heart dropped in his chest. Lavi walked closer to stand next to him, her hand covering her mouth and her eyes tearing up at what she was seeing. Their father, in dragon form, fully visible as he tore into a warehouse, took something from it, and flew off. And he left nothing but flames and rubble behind.

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Jessica looked across the hot dunes. Man it was a nice day, you'd think that would be typical in Idaho on a seemingly endless stretch of sand. But you had hailstorms randomly in some seasons, and it was like, huge hail chunks not your average tiny sphere of frozen water. The brown haired girl sat on her custom, green, Kawasaki 700, watching her cousins play a game on their own quads, one they always played while out here. Leaning forward on the handlebars, the quad wasn't on, she was just enjoying the heat and fresh air.

It had been a year and a half since anything hectic happened, and Jessica has to admit, it was so freaking nice having downtime for the first time in so long. Megan pulled up beside her on a yellow dirt bike, leaning to one side so she could stop and looked at her cousin.

"You ok?"

"I am more than ok, this is the longest peace time we have gotten in god knows how long." Jess smiled. Megan grinned at her, it was kind of hard to see through the blue tinted goggles and her helmet, but Jessica knew it was there.

"Even Maranda admitted that the downtime was nice, besides training." Yeah, when Maranda even admitted the downtime was nice? You knew they were all about due for some non fighting downtime. Jessica stared out blankly, not going unnoticed by her blonde cousin.

"There is something else, all the people you have lost?" She asked, concerned. Jessica winced at that, though that wasn't her reasoning for feeling a little uneasy.

"No, just an uneasy feeling." She didn't say that statement very loud and how Maranda heard it over the roar of the quads and the distance was beyond the young woman.

"I hate it when you say that!" The dishwater blonde responded with a groan. Jessica gave her a flat look, and couldn't help but to roll her eyes.

"Welp, looks like peacetime is over." Bre pulled up beside her on her quad, killing it.

"Because I love getting that feeling. It's just a feeling, it probably isn't anything." Jessica said.

"You say that every time and it is always something!" Her cousin huffed.

"Again, possibility it is just a false alarm" She tried to reason.

"Great, vacation time has put you in denial" Her sister Bre huffed too.

"Whatever, take it how you want, I am going to head back" Jessica started up her quad and it gave off a loud roar. She loved this thing so much.

"Oh come on! We have barely seen you!" Maranda pouted. Jessica laughed as she turned around. Her cousins can have plenty of fun without her, she was actually a little unnerved and crabby at her current feeling of something happening.

"Sorry, but I have someone waiting for me back at base." She told them. True she hasn't been gone for very long, but she couldn't help herself. She got on her comm link, looking around to make sure there weren't any people around. Idaho dunes were a very popular place after all.

"Jazz, may I have a ground bridge back to base?" A green portal opened up in front of her and she drove through on her quad, heading for her house. Hopping off the still running quad and going through the man door on the side of the garage she walked by her custom Jeep. Then opened the large door, hopped on the quad and parked it. She raced the garage door as it went down and made her journey to the medbay, her mood already lighting up as she got closer.

She walked into the large medical area made for bots to see Ratchet who quickly turned around. Well, come on, if the twins targeted you as much as they did him, you'd be paranoid too. She merely nodded at him, but he wasn't the one she was here to see. She immediately made her way to a crib and plucked a little black mech that had red flaming decal and blue optics. She couldn't help but to smile with adoration at her youngling.

"Hey Ratchet, how did all of his check-ups turn out?" She picked the little mechling up, kissing him on his cheek.

"He is a healthy little mech." Was the answer and the woman sighed with relief. The sparkling hugged her tightly. A smile found it's way onto her face and she hugged him back, gently rocking him while he sat on her hip.

"I missed you too my little Armonius Prime." She laughed

"You've only been gone for an hour." Ratchet reasoned.

"So? Still missed him" She kissed his helm as well for emphasis. She loved her baby, he was just the cutest thing in her eye and she felt so blessed to be able to have him. Ratchet just merely smiled at the two as the little mech clicked and smiled at his mother, he was indeed a healthy strong mechling. And would grow quickly into a mech a lot like his father.

"If Nemesis had any doubt that little one was his, it could be put to rest by how much Armonius looks like him, minus the blue optics." Jess looked up at him with a raised brow.

"Trying to say something there Ratchet?" She challenged.

"Not at all." His not so innocent smirk said otherwise.

"Daaamn, that glossa has become more and more lethal, jerk." Jessica pivoted on her heels, her baby in a secure hold, and she started to make her way out of the medbay, laughing.

"See you soon for more check ups!" She promised. The last thing she heard was Ratchet's laughter at the dig he got in on her. She gave him props for it, it was original, and it wasn't his usual threat or dad humor. He's learning, was that a good thing? Who freaking knowsâ€| Probably not.

Once home, Jessica and Armonius sat on the couch, just relaxing and watching some T.V. She was feeding him some special sparkling energon. She really did just enjoy simple calming moments like this because they meant a lot to her. For the first time in a long time she felt safe and enabled to let her guard down, enjoy life and focus on important things. Or important to her specifically. Her 5'4 frame cradled the little mech while he ate. She herself was watching

cartoons. Had it turned on for him yes, but she did just like to watch them. It was childish, but she didn't give a fuck to be completely honest.

Then she heard the white noise of a diesel engine closing in. If possible, her smile grew even wider for several reasons. For starters, she absolutely loved the sound of that Cummins diesel engine. Like, it sent shivers down her spine with a smile, even after all her years of being with him.

Second of all, it had a very distinct rumble to her, one only her mate had. So she knew he was home from working with his brother, Optimus, in all the human politics at their N.E.S.T base. To put it simply, he was home, and that made her happy. She loved his company, even when he was a smart ass. Especially when he was a smart ass. Not many could keep up with her own venom tongue.

"Hello." Nemesis greeted them as his holoform walked away from his alt mode. Jessica smiled at him, craning her body around to see him. He answered with a smile back at her and walked over to the couch. Armonius by now had finished his energon and she placed it on a tray table. Then held back a yelp of surprise when Neme's holoform picked her up very carefully to not wake him, and he set both on his lap. He hugged Jessica and kissed her temple then looked down at his son when he powered on his little optics.

"Nothing gets by you, does it sparkling?" He smiled proudly at his son. He leaned down and kissed his helm. Armonius smiled and reached towards his father, blue optics sparkling. Nemesis brought his hand near him to let him hold one of his fingers, the smile never leaving his face towards his son.

Armonius's optics slowly descended into powering off, but he quickly opened them up again. It was amusing to Jessica. He was trying so hard to stay online but he was losing that fight, he was still young and needed lots of sleep after all.

"Come on Nessie, let's get you to your room so you can recharge." Nemesis leaned forward so she would have an easier time to get back up on her feet. She got up, keeping Armonius cradled protectively against her chest and smiled when her son lost the fight on recharge and succumbed to it. He was already innocent, but there was something about his sleeping form, he was not only innocent now but peaceful and happy as well.

She hoped she could always keep him feeling this safe but she knew with time it would be anything close to impossible. So she will fight like a mother fucker to prolong that feeling for him. She will do anything for him, and her sparkmate.

She got to the top of the stairs and went down the large hall. It had to be big enough for Nemesis to move around in here too. Speaking of which, she heard him follow her up but he headed towards their room.

She walked into Armonius's room and put him onto his bed. Transformers generally slept on a berth, but she just didn't like that idea. So she got him a bed with plenty of pillows and blankets which he loved to curl up into and of course, it was adorable.

Jessica leaned down and kissed his helm for probably the millionth time that day. So sue her, she just loved him so much and couldn't help it.

"Recharge well my boy." She lingered by the door, watching him for one more moment with a smile before closing it behind her. She began walking after her sparkmate. He was probably about to lay down and watch some TV, so she would just sit with him and he can tell her about his day. This was usually accompanied by funny commentary and banter at the show they were watching, especially cheesy old horror films.

She walked in and looked around her room with a raised brow. What the hell? She swore to god she just saw him walk in here, but he was nowhere in sight? She didn't have to wonder too much longer, because his holoforn swooped her up again. She gave a small laugh, and he kissed her as he set her on the bed. He gently pushed her down and got over the top of her while giving her deep kisses that make her shiver in pleasure.

He rubbed her sides as he shifted himself closer over her. His hips moved against her agonizingly slowly, getting a gasp out of her right before her phone started to ring on the nightstand. Fuck you phone! Jess had her hands around his neck, and she had a very, very hard time concentrating when he started to kiss her neck and continued to trail kisses to her chest.

She read the caller ID and looked at it with heavy amounts of irritation. It was Lennox and she had to answer it. She gently and with much regret put some distance between Nemesis and her. Anymore longer of the treatment he was giving her and she would sound like a braindead monkey trying to talk to her boss.

"Damn it..." Lennox! You freaking mood killer! Nemesis, oh man, the look he gave her phone made her fear for its safety, it was pretty freaking funny actually.

"I am going to throw that thing out the window and shoot it." He grumbled. It was almost like a pout and Jessica couldn't help but to laugh, composing herself before answering the cell phone.

"Hello? Woah, Lennox. Calm down dude. What? Ok? Uh. Ok. I'll be down there in a minute. Ok, see you soon." She hung up, raising a brow in confusion at that quick conversation, what even was that?

"What did he want?" Nemesis let her up.

"I don't know, wouldn't tell me." She slid out from underneath him and started to change into some cargo pants. Her belt with her holster secured on the right side of her hip came on next. Then she quickly stuffed her upper pockets full of magazines for her 9mm glock and the lower Velcro pockets held clips for her AK47.

She put a small camel back on. It seems small, sleek and all but it had subspace technology so she could carry a large variety of things in it. Then slapped a mag into her glock, chambered a round and did press check, ensuring a round was in the chamber. Then swung her AK around, strap going across her chest, barrel pointed down. She did the process of gearing up so many times it took mere short

minutes.

Nemesis sat up, and walked up to her, snaking his hands around her waist and she looked up at him curiously.

"Please. Be careful femme." Nemesis urged. She smiled up at her worry mech. He did have reason to worry, sure, but she still didn't like him too. She wrapped her arms around his neck and pulled him down to her height, giving him a kiss which he gladly returned.

She ran her hands down his chest and torso. She knew he was worked up and just wanted to mess with him. Sure enough he tensed up under her touch and even let out a low moan, making her smile in the kiss. She stopped her hands at his stomach though. She wasn't that mean to him. She pulled away, and hugged him instead.

"I'll be back." She told him.

Nemesis jokingly glared at her. "You'll pay for that one." He huffed, he really was worked up.

"I'll be looking forward to it." She smiled and winked at him. He shook his head with a chuckle and watched her head out. That's another thing, they were both total perverts to each other, it was both hilarious and sexy. Win, win.

The farther she got from her house, the more her good mood vanished. She had a feeling she knew what Lennox was going to have her do. And if it was, it was going to throw a very damp rag over her day, because things are about to get complicated. She let off a sigh, walking to the communications room and nodded at Jazz and her sister in law, Lindsey.

Jazz was smirking, he knew something and she was not liking it. This was not good, no one knew Lennox better than Jazz with the exception of a few others. And that fucker had a sick sense of humor, and she knew it. She all but groaned, yup, she is stepping into a mess meeting Lennox today.

"Jazz? Can you send me to Lennox please?"

"Sure thing little lady!" Yup, he was too excited. The green portal opened and she walked through wanting to scream, or punch something, or both. Yeah, both sounded good.

"Peacetime over..." She muttered to unlistening ears as she stepped on.

4. Chapter 4

Jessica walked across the tarmac, nodding at familiar faces, not really knowing most of them by name or on a personal level. Well, besides the ones limited to her adopted family, all the bots and her cousins and sister. But other than that, maybe one or two other people really knew her, because that's all she trusted. And for good freaking reason.

"Jessica." Lennox was coming in on her fast, that panicked vibe still radiating off of him. She raised a brow and stared at him. What was

wrong with him?

"Lennox, what is going on? Why are you calling all panicked like?" Jessica was getting more and more irritated by the minute.

"Look, it's not my place to say. Just follow me." Lennox ordered. It was getting to the point where Jessica was starting to believe he was purposely trying to irritate her now.

"You control the operations known as N.E.S.T. Why wouldn't you be able to tell me, one of your soldiers, whom you are sending on said mission? What's going on? Am I going in on this mission blind?" She raised a brow challengingly. Lennox gave her a flat look as they walked on, for some reason they were heading towards the rec room.

"First off, wouldn't be the first time you have gone into something blind, you and your squad are called suicide squad after all." And no, not like DC, though that movie looks pretty sweet honestly. It's just they tended to go on the missions that most N.E.S.T soldiers would generally shy away from, but hey, it paid well.

"Second of all, have you been watching the news or any TV for the past 5-10 minutes? Specifically the news?" Lennox asked, turning to her.

"If I wanted to watch a bunch of half truths and bull shit I would turn on super jail." Jessica huffed, that show, was on pcp, straight up. "What the hell is the problem? Oh for the love of god Lennox, just tell me!"

"Just keep following me." Lennox urged instead.

Jessica stopped in her tracks, that's it, she is going straight for her theory. "It's about the turtle recruits isn't it?" Jessica gave him an accusing glare.

"Kind of, come on, they really need to hurry out of here." Jessica didn't like that answer, she didn't want to get involved at all in that mess. She is about to spell that out to him!

The two N.E.S.T personnel walked in, sure enough, two ninja turtles. They weren't the full grown ones, these ones looked like teens, around her age maybe. Jess sighed, why the hell did they need her? They didn't look too thrilled to see her either, so they probably don't know anything about her. The angry gray masked teen looked very, very pissed. If Jess wasn't so irritated herself, she would have laughed at the irony here.

"Will! I don't have time for this! I need to go home!" Man, what was it with everyone freaking out today? The poor female turtle looked like she was about to cry, yeah, Jessica was oh so totally lost right now.

"Calm down a minute Ty." Will seemed a little more calm now, probably because him and the turtles being panicky and Jess being crabby was a bad mix. Way to take a step up Lennox.

"Calm?! _That's my father out there!_" His hand was wildly waving at the T.V. screen. By the looks of it it had been doing that a lot.

Jessica tried not to roll her eyes. These guys were supposed to be this awesome fighting team? Shit...they couldn't even keep their composure.

All of a sudden another one come barging into the room, nearly running her over if she wasn't quick enough to get out of the way. Sure the turtle was easily seven foot, easily, but for the love of god... These guys were supposed to be ninjas too? Respect the little people!

"Ty!" He hollered.

"I know!" The gray masked one replied. Ty as he was called apparently.

Finally Jessica wandered over and took a look at the T.V. The news was on, and as much as she hated the media, she watched. And what she saw was dragons steal things out of warehouses and even trains.

"So, these turtles come in limited dragon addition, huh?" She flatly asked Lennox.

"They've been that way. You really haven't been reading the reports, have you?" Lennox countered, he knew she was calm enough to snip at her.

"Sorry, was attending my own shit storm" She retorted right back.

"TouchÃ©, real quick, Jessica? This is Ty, Lavi, and Thane. Guys? This is Jessica, she can help you." Lennox promised. Jessica composed herself a little bit, she was going to need loads of patience with this currently panicky turtle family.

"Alright, I'm following you guys." Jess offered. The biggest one looked her up and down, the fact he was unimpressed clear on his face. And here we freaking go...

"And who the fuck are you exactly?" Pretty sure Will just introduced them shell for brains.

His brother or whoever he was to him was looking at her the same way, eyes narrowed. "How in the hell can she help? She take lessons in dragon wrangling? I've had enough, I'm going home. Now."

That's it, little disrespectful- "You turtles have been hanging around humans too long, not even the good ones either. Automatically assuming based on appearance, but hey, keep at it, I'm sure it'll get you far." She said her statement with a cool expression. She wasn't used to such disrespect, especially from recruits. They were just being little asses. She was so freaking tempted to just walk away. She looked at her boss with irritated expression herself, he looked at her with a firm look, silently ordering her to get over it.

Much the Jessica's surprise, the girl seemed to be calm enough to really put some thought together looking at the young woman intently. She placed a hand on her relative's, Jess was assuming, arm and stared a hole into the front liner.

"You know us, but we know nothing of you. Yet will here, someone my

father trusts very much, seems to think you can help. I ask straight upâ€| Can you?" Jessica forced her anger away again, they weren't used to stuff like this, she had to remember that.

"Yes. I can, my name is Jessica Usagi. The plan is to get more details on what happened, then I will wrangle up my girls, organize a mission and we can take off. Won't take more than a day." She promised.

Ty wasn't taking her retort in the best way, he was shaking but refused to slap the female turtle's hand off of him. His relative watched her again for a long while, Jess just stayed still and waited, watching back calmly.

"Take her to see mom. She's the only one who knows what's going on." Huh, well lookie there. Finally a break through with these guys.

"Are you nuts?! We don't even know her, and you want me to take her to the lair?" Ok, maybe not. Deep breaths Jessica, felt like she was taking 2 steps forward, then ten more back with this stubborn group.

"That's going to go over really well with our fathers." The biggest one, Thane? Think it was Thane, responded.

Lavi looked as frustrated as Jessica felt, ok, probably more, but the young turtle girl pointed at the screen. It showed a dragon that had orange trim running around, seemingly set on a task. "As if they have a say in the damn matter! And we aren't even sure where our mothers are! No one has been answering the damn lair phone! Something could have happened to them too!"

Thane winced at that, but stayed silent. Huh, so Lavi had a temper, and Jessica was about to meet her mother, this was going to be good. So much sarcasm there. Maybe she got the temper from her father? Jessica doesn't know why, but she seriously doubted that.

Ty finally took a deep breath, probably coming to his senses and making himself calm down too.

"Come with me. We need to ground bridge to New York." Jessica trailed him, giving a quick nod at Lennox before he left her line of sight, and the turtles led them to the control room where the ground bridge on this base was stationed.

"Kyle? I need a small bridge home." Ty asked.

"The planned rooftop?" He asked in return. Ty just nodded and Kyle opened one so Ty, Thane and Jessica could step through, they were on one of the many rooftops of the city.

She followed the teens down a ladder, keeping a low profile and not doing anything fancy. Did she feel kind of bad for hiding secrets? Yes. But she wasn't going to be hanging out with this group for very long. They were just from two different worlds that wouldn't fit in harmony. Hence, she didn't have a reason to reveal anything about herself for the time being.

She watched the twitchy teen. Man...he was starting to make her

stress out for him. He needed to calm down, this attitude was no good if they wanted to accomplish anything. She stopped him, but kept her tone calm, she needed to have a little sensitivity to them in this kind of situation. "You need to cool it, if you are so uncomfortable bringing me down to your liar, bring your mother up here and we will figure something out. I was sent here to help you, not to send you into a more stressed out and pissy mood." Jessica urged.

"You don't understand. That is more than just my father out there. He's merged with a spirit that gives him that dragon form, against the wishes of some very powerful individuals. The spirits were able to outwit them so that he could stay on this world with my uncles." He began to explain, continuing their decent towards the ground. "But if they see what is happening now they will come back and try to banish our fathers to the spirit realm. In light of that...you coming into our home is actually nothing compared to that problem. And this isn't the place to discuss it. Mother would never come out here to have a very lengthy conversation with my cousin and I out in the open like this."

Jessica all but rolled her eyes, but not at the young turtle, at the situation. For many, many reason. He just confirmed her theory on what was going on. Indirectly, but he did nonetheless

Thane gave a grunt in agreement as the turtles led the young woman on down the fire escape. She kept up and humored them on being faster.

"Father trusts Will, and he trusts you. And I'm going to trust in them. I assume you are allied with the bots in some way. A few of them already know where we live so it's no big reveal. This way." Ty lead the way, waiting for Jessica at the bottom.

"Yes, I am a N.E.S.T soldier. My cousins, sister and I tend to work with the bots a lot." Jessica was just about done with this whole situation already. But she had to confirm what was running through her head get a little closure before running headfirst into this bull shit. Some other thoughts swam around in her head but she pushed those to the side for now.

"So, your fathers pissed off some gods huh?" She asked calmly. Yeah, that didn't sit so well with Ty, he looked up at her with a hint of anger. She probably could have asked that in a better way, but fuck it, too late now. It was out there with that tone.

"No, they didn't." She could tell he was trying to keep his temper in check. "The gods offered them something to save this planet and everything on it, and in return they wanted our fathers to leave this world after doing that. They were willing to give everything they loved up just so we could all have a chance to live on." Jessica nodded it at that. And also gave an internal scream, she didn't want to deal with gods.

"Shitty ass reward, but they were going to follow through with it anyway." Thane responded from down below her where they both waited for her to finish descending the fire escape.

"The spirits didn't think that was fair and intervened. Our fathers had nothing to do with the god shitfit that happened after that. All they did was what they always do: Fight for those who can't fight on

their own." Ty dropped into the sewer after opening the manhole cover. Thane looked at her with an eyeridge raised, she silently raised one as well, a nonverbal: "is there a problem?"

"And who told you they were gods anyway? Back at base you didn't have a fucking clue what happened." Jessica was getting real irritated with his underestimating her. But calmed herself, he wasn't the first, and he wont be the last person. He'll see eventually.

Besides, she was a 5'4 little girl around their age. She would probably assume too under the conditions they were under when they themselves haven't had the experiences she has. She knew better than to underestimate someone. And that was because of several bad experiences, most in which she wasn't even underestimating her opponent! She was kind of glad they were in that oblivion, because that means they are staying strong and haven't had a situation bad enough to make them paranoid like her.

"Had a hunch. Was praying to god I was wrong." She looked up at the sky, almost looking angry, before she hopped in to go down the ladder. Thane closed the cover after everyone started to make their descent down the ladder, it should probably smell horrible down here, but Jessica has smelled much worse. The shit storm she was getting into though, oh her sister and cousins were going to be pretty pissed when she got back with this intel.

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We wandered into our home, and found it once again empty. Over two days now... And still nothing... I was honestly wondering how much more of this I could take. The worry was eating me alive, slowly tearing me apart from the inside out. Where were they... I didn't know, and I also didn't know anymore where to look. I sat on the couch and tiredly rubbed my eyes, and the tears that formed in them away.

Caitlin and Marina had wandered back into the lab, their usual pattern by now, as Cris meandered on towards the kitchen. I knew she was going to make us something to eat, and I also knew none of us would really feel like eating it.

The silence in our home was what hurt the most. Everything here reminded us of them, but they themselves could not be found. They had built this home, and now I was wondering if they would ever come back to it. I couldn't take it anymore. I had to turn the TV on to drown out the silence. And when I did I regretted it instantly. I rose slowly back to my feet as I saw Raph's dragon form attach to a train car, and smoothly lifted it up before he flew off with it, that of course caused the train to derail. And the headline on the screen of "Dragon menace" really wasn't helping. "No!" I screamed at the box that just prattled on. "God please, _no!_"

Of course my outburst drew the others back into the living area, and they stared in shock and disbelief, as I was, at what we were watching. I wasn't the only one crying now as we watched our husbands do the one thing they never would do. Cause harm.

"Mom?" The quiet question came from a familiar voice from behind me. I saw my son, and the son of the blue banded dragon that was now flashing across the screen, walking quickly towards me. I tried not to cry when I saw him...and I failed. His arms wrapped around me to try and comfort me as I began to sob against his chest. I automatically knew why he was here.

Thane came in next, quickly moving towards Cris.

"Mom...what happened?" Ty asked, trying to get me to calm down enough to talk to him.

"I don't know!" I wailed even harder.

I cried a few moments, with Ty still trying to calm me down before someone else made their presence known. "Ma'am?" I looked up from Ty's chest to see a young woman with brown hair and bluish green eyes walk towards me, one I didn't know. "My name is Jessica. I was sent by William Lennox to help you. Is there any leads at all? Anything found at the scene? Anything will help." She then waited patiently for me to get my act together.

I sniffled as I looked unsure up at Ty. "It's ok Mom." He quietly reassured me.

"How much does she know?" I finally calmed down enough to ask as I wiped my eyes.

My son just shrugged. "More I think than she lets on. She acts all normal...but she's either psychic or she can see in the dark better than most humans. She just went through the motions of me guiding her through the tunnels."

Jessica stuck her thumb in her pockets and looked away from Ty. Almost like she just got a taste of something she wasn't expecting. I'm guessing my son hit on something she wasn't expecting him to figure out.

"Will sent her?" I asked him quietly and he answered with a nod.

I gave her a long, probing stare as I sized her up. She wasn't very tall, even Ari was taller, but she held herself with that air of confidence of someone who had been through some shit. A lot of it. Hard to believe from someone who looked as young as she did. Heck, she looked like she was Ty's age of early twenties. "There has to be a reason why Will chose you... He wouldn't just send anyone..." I told Jessica in a quiet voice before I let out a very shaky sigh. I was still on the verge of losing my composure. "Because not just anyone can handle them now... I'm not sure what to tell you. All I know is we went out for a run two nights ago and we stopped for a little bit. Caitlin wanted to look at something. They waited on the roof of the building nearby for us to finish. Then a few minutes later they were just...gone... The bond closed and Marina and Cait lost all feeling for them. The only thing we found were their weapons along with Donnie's pack and other gadgets." I pointed to the very large pile of very sharp shit placed neatly in the corner. "Then I see...that..." My hand waved wildly at the tv screen.

The look she gave was a critical one, almost like she didn't want to be here and couldn't believe after two days that's all that we had to

go on. And she obviously wasn't happy about it. "You didn't find anything else? They were just kidnapped? From what I have heard. No one has ever been able to sneak up on them let alone catch them so easily. If you can't provide any more information," She shrugged "it all good. My girls and I can go off of what you already told me. We've worked with less. But any bit of information helps."

Thane had went over to the weapons by that point, and he shot her a nasty glare. For some reason I had the feeling they didn't get off to a good start themselves. I know she was starting to rub me the wrong way. "Hey...go easy on them! It's not the first time one of us has been swiped, but it is the first time they just upped and disappeared without a-...hey...what's this?" His gaze went curiously towards his hand and what ever he was holding in it.

"What's what?" Ty was now walking over to join him.

"This?" He holds up a very small fragment of what looked like a crystal. "It was stuck in Uncle Mikey's 'chuck chain."

Jessica walked over to him and checked it out. I knew I wasn't supposed to hear the "fuck" that slipped out quietly, but I did. So did the rest of us. "Don't tell anyone about that. It will hinder progress dramatically. I'm going to head back and discuss things with Lennox. Then we will head out to find them."

She began to make her way to the door, only to find that way blocked by a very angry Cris who glared at her through narrowed eyes. "What is it." She wasn't really asking. "Don't be playing these mysterious games with us or I'll beat the answers out of you!"

Marina also walked over to them, her eyes very cool. Which meant she was mad too. "And we are going with you."

The boys exchanged a quick, rueful glance at that.

"You should have known that was coming." Thane told Ty.

"I did. Just not so sure she expected it though."

Jessica was eyeing Cris, then took in a deep breath before she slowly released it. I was getting the vibe that we were slightly annoying her. Well...tough shit. "That substance is something that could force us to abort the whole mission. And without my squad and I to help you guys out. Your options are slim to zero chance of being able to get them back. And as for the rest of you. I advise you to stay home or settle down at a base for several reasons. You could be sucked into a shit storm you have yet to face with the direction this bull shit is going." The look she gave us told us that she really hoped we would do just that.

I blew that notion right out of the water. "The hell we will!" My foot impacted into the poor coffee table, which was then sent flying across the room to crash into the wall where it broke apart and fell to the floor.

"There goes the furniture..." Ty mumbled under his breath.

"Fine!" I spun back at Jessica, my eyes blazing. "You don't want us to go with you? We'll go out our damn selves and look for them! I'm

not just going to sit here and have some stranger tell me I should just sit on my ass and do nothing!" I kicked the end table next and it followed the same path as the coffee table, and had the same results.

Cris raised an accusing brow at Jessica. "Now look what you did."

"Lady..." Marina began in her quiet, cool, Imma 'bout to kick your ass voice. "You don't know half the shitstorms we've seen. We never backed down from any of them, we refuse to do so now."

"You might as well just give that reasoning up." Thane quietly told Jessica, eyeballing all of us. "They mean it. If they don't go with you they will tear the whole country apart looking for them on their own."

She bit her lip, hard, before taking a few more breaths to calm own. "Because leading five stubborn ass girls wasn't bad enough." She grumbled before sending me a very cool glare. "Fine. Just realize. If they hurt you, they will never be the same." Then she turned it towards Marina, who matched it. "And things can always get worse. Just when you think you've seen it all. Feel like life can't get any harder or scarier. You jinx yourself, and pay for it in the end. But hell, if you want to help your mates. Who am I to stop you. I can only warn you." Again she turned towards the exit.

And again she was stopped. This time by the couch pillow Caitlin, of all people, threw at her. "That doesn't mean we just give up on them and let strangers just waltz all over them! Will sent you to help, did he not?" Her blazing green eyes narrowed. "Help means just that, you help us, not tell us what we should or shouldn't do!"

Thane was looking at Caitlin in shock. "Yup...she's worried. Not often she flips her lid like that when there's no patient involved.

Whatever was about to be said next was cut off by Ty's shrill whistle. "All of you knock it off! How is this bickering going to help anything!" This time he was the one taking a deep breath to calm down. We all seemed to be doing a lot of that... "Look, Jessica, I understand your concern. But you don't understand how this family works. We would never leave one of our own in trouble. Our moms could no more sit this out than our fathers would if the roles were reversed. Especially my mom. She's got a connection with Father that goes deeper than you understand right now. Who knows, it may be that connection that may be able to help...if we can find them. If we do this, we do this together. It's how we've always done it."

"Which is why I'm letting them come with my team. This is going to be a long mission." Jessica grumbled. Cris made a sneering nose wrinkle at her and mimicked her as Jessica got onto her comm. I was assuming it was her comm anyway. I really hoped she didn't have a habit of talking to imaginary folks. "Bre? Tell everyone to gear up and get ready, when I get back. I am going over what I learned with Lennox then we'll be heading out. And uh, we have some new team members. Yes... I know. Dude! I know! I told them. Yup. Well..." She looked over at the destroyed furniture. "They aren't exactly civilians... Yes. Alright, see you when I get back. Have everything ready please. Thanks." She lowered her hand and sighed. "Vacation time is over."

Her gaze went to Ty. "Meet you back on base." This time when she left, she was allowed to go unmolested.

I was still glaring at the door she disappeared through as Ty walked over to me. "Come on Mom. Grab what you need. You'll all come back to the base with us and we'll figure this out...ok? Just calm down and let's try and piece this together."

My eyes began to water all over again at his calm tone. "Do you have any idea how much you sound like him right now..."

He gave me a small smile in return. "It's only natural...he is my father after all. Some of him is bound to rub off on me."

"I'm not sure I like her." Cris grumbled. "Vacation time pfft... The guys can't even enjoy their damn retirement."

"Just get your crap and let's go." I sighed at her.

Cris grumbled some more under her breath as she did that. Ty calmly walked over and started to gather the guys' things.

"What are you doing?" Thane asked him.

"I have a feeling they are going to want these when they are finally found. And want to put them to use."

"You look like a walking armory."

"Well then here," Ty pushed some of the equipment into Thane's arms "you carry some then we can both look stupid."

Thane gave him a flat look, then he followed his mother's lead and grumbled to himself as he was loaded up like a pack mule. It didn't take us long after that to make our own way to the surface. And Ty held my hand the entire way. I held onto that hand for dear life. He was all I had of Leo at the moment to take comfort in.

5. Chapter 5

Jessica returned back to her base and was still mumbling absurdities under her breath. Man, those people and turtles though, she was trying to remember their situation and have some empathy for them. But holy mother of hell, they were stubborn, hard headed, asinine and she was having a hard time keeping her cool.

Maranda came up to Jess, "Peace time over?"

"Peace time over" Jessica nodded.

Maranda, surprisingly enough, looked bummed out because of that, liking the down time as much as the rest of her family.

"Well, on the bright side. We got any peace time. Because let's face it, relaxation and peace doesn't usually last as long as it did." Jessica pointed out. It kind of sucked, how true that statement was. But compared to their past, a year and a half of no fighting? That was insanely good.

"Based on our track, record Striker is right." Bre pursed her lips in agreement.

"So what are we up against." Carrie asked, going straight to the point. She wasn't one to beat around the bush.

"Turtle dragons. That's not even the hard part. Hard part will be us containing them without hurting them. They are being brainwashed. But we don't know by who."

"Can't we just drain them? If they are what we've been feeling, they are Elemental." Megan countered, crossing her arms. Something was putting her on edge. Jessica somehow knew that even Megan didn't know what it was yet. She had some sympathy for her cousin, she always kept things in unless you pried them from her. And it wasn't like a: "oh what is wrong and she spills" It was a: "almost on the verge of needing to beat it out of her." So frustrating sometimes!

"We don't know their cores or entities well enough. We could kill them if we aren't careful. So. Let's not risk that"

"And how are our new team mates?" Bre asked. Oh, she freaking knew the frustration spike in her sister. This turd was just rubbing it in now, and Jess wasn't appreciating it.

"Charming." Jessica huffed.

"Come on Striker, don't go all hard hearted on them. Their mates are running around causing havoc unwillingly. They're just scared and angry." Bailey pointed out. She looked far more empathetic, she would be the most out of all of them. Bailey tended to be more understanding, she was vital that way. Better with handling distressed civilians, or super soldier ladies and ninja turtles that were about to tear the countryside apart single handedly.

"You're right. They don't know how to shut their emotions down like we do. I should be a little more sensitive. I'd murder a bitch if someone brainwashed Nemesis." Jessica said, dark look in her eyes.

"We'll make it up to them." Bailey assured. And when she promised something like that, she stuck to it, she had a good heart.

"Didn't the hot headed youngling find Chaos crystal?" Bre queried, crossing her arms and eyeing her sister.

"Yeah... About that. Not. A. Fucking. Word. Or we'll never get this mission, and with the stubborn streak I have been getting out of this group, they will take everything on their own. Stubborn women." She eyed her team. Bre merely snorted at her sister, hoping she was just kidding around with the tone of that statement.

"Something amusing you sis?" Jess questioned

"So pretty much what you are saying is that they are anything close to us personality wise?"

Jessica caught on. "Yeah. Unfortunately."

"Just depends on the situation dear sister. Come on, let's go meet up

with them."

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When the distraught turtle wives finally gathered in the rec room, the rest of the children had already gathered. And worried expressions were to be found on all of their faces.

"Mom!" Ari was trying not to cry as she ran to Caitlin and threw her arms around her mother. "What's going on? Why is Daddy out there...doing that..."

Caitlin held her blonde, pink masked turtle daughter close, her own eyes once again filling with moisture. "I don't know pumpkin...I don't..."

Lavi was also holding tight to her mother by now, also trying not to cry. Lavi's lavender eye band was moist with tears of worry she had already shed. Vicky just wrapped her arms around the girl, not knowing what to say to comfort her. "Mom.. What do we do..." Vicky shook her head as she pulled her daughter tighter against her. Her brown eyes closed tightly to hold back the tears.

Dante was sitting at a nearby table, furiously working hard on the laptop placed in front of him. If he was trying to solve this puzzle, or just trying to keep his mind occupied, none of them could really tell. His yellow masked eyes never left the screen his focus was on it so hard. He didn't even look up to greet his mother as Marina walked over to him.

Grey masked Ty and black masked Thane struggled to keep their own composure they had managed to find at the sight of the distraught females. But both of them had their fists tightly clenched at their sides. Someone was going to pay for this, just as soon as they could figure out where to send the bill.

Jessica walked into the rec room calmly talking to Lennox and a tall black haired gentleman. Vicky looked over the group as they came in, trying to read something from all these strangers. She had to admit, she was having a very hard time with this. Will trusted this bunch apparently enough to have them help, but yet Vicky knew nothing of them. It left a very bitter taste in her mouth that Leo's well being was depending on a bunch of strangers.

Her eyes watched as they all filed in and her eyes stopped at the tall man Will and Jessica were still talking to. He had piercing red eyes, obviously a holoforn, but was he a Decepticon? Obviously defected if that was the case. Jessica was fully geared up with an AK strapped to her back still and there was a gaggle of girls following her in a professional manner. A very young looking, like, middle school looking, blonde had Sniper secured to her back, she was even shorter than Jessica. And not by an inch or two, she came up by about 4'9, but there was something of an ambience about her.

Another had brown hair and brown eyes, she seemed more calm, and collected, and all in all, nicer to be around.

While the second in command looking girl had brown hair and green

eyes, looked like Jessica but much taller, like, a whole hell of a lot taller.

One had a chilling presence, like she has seen and lived through the worst of the worse, she had an eerie air to her, she was pretty with a short blonde pixie cut and piercing blue eyes.

Last one had hazel eyes, and hair that stopped with at her shoulders, she was a dishwater blonde, looked like she was pretty much on the same boat as the blonde, but hid it behind a mischievous attitude.

And all of them a puzzle as far as Vicky was concerned. She still didn't fully understand why Will thought bringing this bunch in would do any good.

"So that's all I got, the family wants to come along." Jessica finished briefing her boss.

"That's fine. Let them go. Anything else?"

"No sir, that's it." Jessica replied smoothly, on the inside? She did not like lying at all, and usually sucked at it unless it was with an enemy.

"We clear to head out yet?" the eager yet annoyed looking blonde asked.

"As long as you have given us all your Intel, I don't see a problem with you heading out. Just be careful, all of you" Nemesis eyed Jessica the hardest with a firm expression, even his holoform could look intimidating. But to be honest his intimidating expressions weren't scary to her, she thought they were pretty sexy if anything, everyone else? That was a different story, she knew that by the twitchiness of her cousins and sister. Jessica smiled at her husband, he was going to be able to see right past it, but by god she would try.

"We will." Jessica walked up to the turtle wives and teens before any mannerisms gave her away.

"See...Will knows us better than to try and pull that stuntâ€¦" Now that the N.E.S.T soldiers were close enough, the female hot headed lady, Cris? Yeah. She decided to open her mouth.

Marina slapped her shoulder

"Just stop it already. We've already had that argument."

"Well, we don't know you. Pretty good excuse to us" Maranda retorted. She watched Cris, she was sizing her up, but not like a normal person would, to her, sizing people up was an art form, and she knew how to do it. She knew several techniques and ways to figure out how a person ticks, and Jessica was strongly disapproving of the fact she was doing it on the woman.

"Maranda, we so don't need this right now, save it for the enemy." On both parts! Maranda grumbled, eyeing the new part of her team with irritation.

"See how this mission is going to go." she huffed. Then glared at Bre after the young second in command slapped her cousin upside the head, giving her a warning glare.

"Ow."

"Are we ready to head out?" She needed to get her team out of here before her hot head went trigger happy.

"No, we're not ready." Jessica doesn't believe she had met this young turtle that spoke.

"What are you doing now?" Thane asked, looking over the shoulder of his cousin

"Making it easier to find them." He turned his laptop around to show his little presentation and theory. "They've been hitting chemical supply trains and warehouses...right?"

"From what the news tells us...yes." Thane agreed.

"All the trains hit have been in this area." He circled one of his three fingers around an area of a map he had up.

"And there is another shipment scheduled to go through soon. How much do you want to bet they are waiting in the surrounding countryside to pick that one off too?"

"Makes sense to me" Carrie was giving the computer screen a thoughtful look.

"Oi. Ladies and turtles? The team: Carrie, Bailey, Maranda, Megan, and my second in command, Bre

"They are known as the Suicide squad. They never work with anyone so try to be patient with them when it comes to their social skills" Will added, with that little smart ass remark. Jerk

"Oh screw you Will." Jessica grumbled

"This mission will either be very successful with you guys on a team or will go right in the crapper. So try to have a little sensitivity to the situation." Jessica looked about ready to rip him a new ass hole but paused, and bit her tongue. "Yes sir" she all but growled Lennox nodded.

"So Dante, where are they hitting next?" Will asked, looking at Donnie's son. Elementals listened while they loaded up their guns and did the necessary press checks, and quick examinations. On the other hand, Cris was STILL glaring at Maranda.

"How about I shove that AK down your throat?" to which, Marina smacked her on the arm with a firm expression on her face. "Will you quit!" She snapped.

Maranda just watched Cris with a cool expression, she was irritated at the women, but she knew when to strike.

Thane gave his mother a knowing look as he turned his head towards Cris. "Yeah...apparently we need to work on our social skills

too."

Without missing a beat Cris took out her hanbo and popped him on the back of the legs with it. Her eyes never left Maranda's while she did it either. Oh boy...

"Ow! Damn it Mom!"

Vicky just rubbed her forehead as she listened to the impending argument. "Lord... Look. Can we all at least pretend to get along?" She plopped herself on the couch, clearly not wanting to deal with this right now. All she wanted to do was go out and find Leo and the others.

Ty just rolled his eyes over the bickering on both sides. "I'm Titian. My sister Lavinia. The practice dummy over there is Thane, the computer guy Dante and this is my little cousin Arianne. The temperamental lady over there using Thane for a practice dummy is my Aunt Cris, the one next to her Aunt Marina, And Aunt Caitlin here, and my mother Vicky." he finished with a sigh, his face taking on that worried expression again that had been plaguing them all night. "I'd introduce you to our fathers...but that's going to have to wait."

Megan watched them, her disposition could easily be misread as cold and heartless, she was aware of that. But she merely watched them curiosity, specifically the younger turtles, and turned to her cousin, murmuring lowly in a different language. "Is it just me? or do they look familiar somehow?"

Maranda looked back at her. Still looking irritated from her encounter with Cris, she responded just as quietly. "I think I'd remember them if we met them." She almost said the statement with a hiss, in the same language. Megan rolled her eyes, deciding that she would talk to her after she calmed down and was thinking properly.

Jessica smiled sympathetically yet amused at Thane, before she looked back at Ty. "You'll be able to introduce us soon enough. Promise. But we'll need to head out in order to get anywhere with this." She pointed out. But, of course, things can never go as smoothly as they should, or at the very minimum: how everyone wants them to go.

"What is that?" Nemesis's holoforn pointed.

Jess followed his gaze to a small fraction of Chaos crystal that fell from some of the older ninja turtle gear and on to the ground

"A rock." She just stared at it, and not at him, because she knew the look he was giving her. Shit. All anger disappeared from her cousins, and sister, they all casually froze up.

"So you can pick it up and bring it outside?" Oh, he was so not buying it. He crossed his arms and gave Jess a critical look she stared back at him, picking up the "rock" and moved it to her palm so no one can see the flesh of her palm burn. Thankfully, none of the others were really watching, and were too glued to Dante's computer, or so she hoped, anyway, she walked over to the door to throw it out.

"Just a rock." She reasoned.

"Then let me see your palm that was just steaming a moment ago."

"Oh for Christ's sake Nemesis!"

It was then that Dante decided to get to his feet and walk in between the irritated couple, completely oblivious to their squabble as he looked at the laptop. Jess wasn't complaining, it was a freaking distraction after all.

"The way it looks Will, the area we need to bridge to is near here," he looked a little amused "a place called: Manhattan in Kansas."

Vicky slapped her palm to her forehead at that bit of information. "Now isn't that ironic from hell..."

"In more ways than one." Cris chuckled in agreement.

"I thought you might catch on Aunt Vic." Dante grinned at her. Now that they had a direction, and something resembling a plan forming, their mood was starting to brighten. They still worried for the missing turtles, a lot, but it wasn't that crippling fear anymore.

Jess ignored Neme's seething look and paid attention to the laptop.

"Well alright. Let's move." she announced.

Megan suddenly stiffened a little, as if listening to something. "And fast"

"Change in plans. You're not going. Not yet" Nemesis all but growled, giving Jessica a firm look.

"Neme, we have to go there now to get them, we'll be playing catch up trying to figure out where they are going to hit next." she insisted, more pleadingly than angrily.

"We'll find another way." he insisted, still fuming.

"There is not other way you hard headed mech!" Jessica crossed her arms at him, going into full sass mode.

"You'll remain here. Promise me." Jessica did a facepalm and ran her hand down her face, then put her hands behind her back and looked at him with heavy amounts of irritation, then looked at Will pleadingly, trying to get some backup against her stubborn ass husband.

"I'm not going against one of the boss bots." Will gave her a straight face, but it also silently asked if she was crazy too.

"Oh come the hell on!" Jess fumed as Nemesis' holoform flickered out.

"We don't have time for this!" Vicky also fumed at the argument. Their mood hadn't improved that much. Any delay to her and the others was going to be met with fierce resistance, a point proven

when she stomped out of the rec room and towards the ground bridge. Her family quickly moved to follow, until Ty stopped.

"Oh no sis." He firmly told Lavi. "You aren't coming."

"The hell I'm not!" She flared back at him, her face angry.

"That's right. You're not. You have no business out there."

Vicky looked at her daughter with curiosity at this exchange. She fully knew her daughter was just as capable as the rest of them, so why would Ty insist that she stay behind? She might be a valuable asset.

Lavi apparently wasn't going to give up without a fight either. "He's my father too!" Her blue/brown eyes were now flaring in anger.

But Ty wasn't so easily intimidated by that glare as he calmly looked back at her and crossed his arms. "And you are also carrying his grandchild. You are staying here."

The wide eyed looks her family gave her sealed her fate. There was no way now they were going to let her go with them. Not after hearing that. The defeated girl shook in her anger as she stared her brother down, and he still didn't budge on the matter. Then, purely out of the frustration she now felt mixed with her anger at having been so bluntly ratted out in this crucial moment, she slapped him. The echo of the sound lost in her emotional outburst that followed.

"You did that on purpose you asshole! I wasn't going to tell them yet!" Tears ran down her face before she abruptly turned and ran back into the rec room.

Her twin let out a long, slow sigh as he rubbed the cheek she just nailed. "I should have seen that coming."

"Yup." Thane agreed as he watched her go. "You shoulda."

Vicky just closed her eyes and shook her head. "Let's just go..." She sighed.

Jessica frowned as Lavi made her exit, then hit her comm before muttering into it real quickly. Bre smiled at her sis, she was getting a little more sensitive to the situation, a milestone, and she was proud of her.

"You softy" translation: I'm proud of you. Hey, they were still rough, tough military girls with a rep.

"Shut your mouth." Translation: thank you "And you!" She pointed at Lennox with a firm glare

"I know I'm not going to like this." Will knew what she was about to do, and although he was happy with her enthusiasm, this was not how he wanted to go about this.

"Blind eye Lennox" Jessica threatened.

"Either way, he's going to know you're gone and you're going to get massive brig time" Will promised.

Bre was on it, getting to work on her own comm. "Not if he's distracted with the terror twins and Blaster having a massive prank war against him." she innocently pointed out

"If I have to buff dings and scratches out of my poor mech, then all of the above will know true pain." Jessica promised in a dark and serious tone.

"It'll mostly be paint products." Bre shrugged.

"Alright, that should be ok, Let's go!" She lead Vicky and her group to the tarmac and kept moving, hitting her comm. "Jazz, bridge please! And hurry!" Clayshah sent the coordinates Dante so kindly provided. Ah, there was Prowl, across the tarmac, and closing in. Shit... But thankfully, the ground bridge opened, and Striker quickly lead the way through. Maranda was dragging a very hesitant Megan along, threw her in, did a round off, in the middle of the round off, she through a smokescreen bomb at Prowl. Then went through the ground bridge whooping, and all the other girls of Jessica's grouped followed her. Prowl immediately had to stop, it wasn't an ordinary smoke bomb, it was one that blew some electrical out, but mainly the strange currents spazzed out his telemetryâ€¦ Coincidence? Oh hell naw fam. But he kept up his velocity, speeding towards the remainder turtle family, remembering at least the area they were in.

Thane just looked at the speeding bot with amusement on his smug face "You haven't caught any of us yet and you're not going to today either!"

"Done this a time or two?" His mother asked him with a raised brow.

"...Maybe..."

Then with a burst off speed the turtle family joined their partners in crime through the ground bridge, and whatever waited on the other side.

And Lavi had no idea what would happen. Her Father was out there, causing all kinds of havoc, and now her family went out there to stop those rampaging dragons...and she was stuck here. She couldn't do a damn thing to help. All she could do was lay in this couch and cry.

Suddenly she felt a strong embrace around her and she clung to the unseen figure tightly. Those arms tightened themselves as they tried to give her comfort. "It'll be ok, Lavi." Elita's calm voice reached the distressed girl as she began to rock her. "Shh. It'll all be ok."

6. Chapter 6

They came through so fast that their feet skidded a few feet over the loose ground when they tried to stop. Behind them the bridge had snapped shut, but Vicky didn't notice it as she took a deep breath to calm her nerves. Nerves that were feeling the strain of not having Leo by her side. "Which way Dante?"

"South." Came the confident reply from the teen as he lead the way. "We are actually pretty close to the train tracks. But we need to hurry, that train is scheduled to pass through soon."

She just nodded as she began to follow the youngster, and found herself walking next to Jessica. Recalling what had set off the mad dash for the ground bridge in the first place, she directed her words to the leader of this team. "You mind filling us in on what you are trying so hard to hide?" A mild surge of anger shot through the dark haired woman. By rights, they shouldn't be hiding anything from this family, not when it concerned something so important to them. That was not a good way to get in Vicky's good graces.

Surprisingly, Jessica offered her the explanation. Maybe it had something to do with the fact they weren't in the room with someone who could put a stop to the whole thing, or try to anyway. "It's how the turtle dragons got caught. It's called chaos crystal and it's a little harsh on a choice few."

Vicky thought that over as two of her group, Carrie and Bre, made sure the rear perimeter was still secure. Vicky held a bit of shock in at that, she was about to have Ty and Thane do the exact same thing...as Leo had taught her to do. She bit back the pain of grief that wanted to hit her and focused on her companion instead. Another thought hit her and her brow raised once it did. "A choice few that have relations to gods in some way? Because it obviously doesn't affect normal individuals or Thane wouldn't have been able to pick it up." Vicky gave Jessica a long, level look as they walked, something becoming more clear to her as she thought this through. "And by the way you two were acting on base...I'm assuming it affects you as well."

Jessica bit her lip a bit, but she didn't deny it.

Before Vicky could push the matter, Dante stopped at the rise that climbed up from the valley below. It was filled with trees and the path of the railway obviously cut through them, obvious by the line in in the canopy that indicated where the tracks ran. There was also something else down there. Dante swallowed hard as he pointed to the others. "I think we found them." His finger pointed to the four dragons laying calmly on their stomachs, patiently waiting for the train.

Vicky was immediately going to go down that slippery slope, but was halted by Cris' hand on her arm. "Wait..." Her eyes narrowed as she took a broader look at what was down in that clearing. "Look, they aren't alone." It was her hand that pointed this time, revealing what Vicky had previously overlooked. The clearing was crawling with what looked like some kind of band of troops. And there were a lot of them.

"What is going on?" Marina frowned as she also surveyed the area. Her eyes clearly telling everyone she wasn't liking what she was seeing. None of them were really.

"That's what we need to find out, and we aren't going to do it from up here." Vicky didn't wait for anyone else to stop her. Carefully she made her way down the steep slope, trying not to dislodge any loose rocks and dirt that could give her presence away. And she barely got started before the teens moved to go down in another

direction as the turtle wives followed their impulsive leader. Jessica looked a little annoyed, but Vicky didn't really care. This family moved at their own speed, and Vicky trusted in the children to place themselves where they would do the most good. NEST chicks were just going to have to learn how they operate. And learn it quick too.

Maranda looked at the little sniper casually. "\$20 if you can take out 10 guards in under 5 seconds without getting the attention of the turtle dragons, and while their family is still distracted with the climb down the slope."

"Might as well give me the money now" Carrie shrugged, it was going to be easy money. She put a silencer on her sniper, then laid low on her belly, taking aim, then started dropping guards like flies. The tiny woman also focused a moment even as her rounds sped towards their targets and their dead bodies were engulfed in the earth the second they hit the ground to hide them from other guards and not alert anyone. Finally she hit 10 in under 5 seconds, then got the ninja turtle dragons in her sights to make sure they haven't been alerted, then strapped her sniper back on her back.

"Meh, worth the money." Maranda held up a crisp, \$20 bill for her little cousin to snatch up.

"Come on, let's go catch up. There are still some guards too close to the dragons to snipe, and I can't get them with an AK from here."

Maranda huffed. Sure they could shoot, and yes, even sneak, but they were all created for close combat, and battles, not so much missions. The N.E.S.T team began to follow the ladies, taking slightly different ways to not attract attention.

Vicky's team had by now made it to the bottom and carefully inched their way closer to the dragons still lying on the ground.

"Weren't there more guards?" Marina asked, her voice barely audible as she looked around a bit confused. "I could have sworn there were more guards..."

Cris just shrugged it off. "Does it matter? I'll beat the shit out of all of them."

Vicky ignored the conversation and inched even closer to Leo, her focus solely on reaching her turtle.

"Vicky!" Cris hissed at her. "What are you doing?"

"Getting my damn husband back!" Was the snapped, quiet reply. Then her voice shifted to ununderstandable mumbles as she grumbled a few not so nice things about stupid turtles getting into trouble, bad guys and the entire situation in general before she bit her tongue and inched ever closer.

Maranda walked up from behind Cris, who barely flinched at her approach. Cris had been training for years with ninjas afterall. "We should jump them..."

"Sneaking on the train might be good too." Jessica added. "Figure out

what it is they are stealing. See if we can get pattern and figure out what the dickwad that took them over is planning in the mere future."

Carrie finally was able to pocket the 20 bucks now that they stopped moving. "You think they'll remember what they were doing once we snap them out of it? That'd be cool too, then we can just bring them down now." she offered.

"I don't think Vicky wants to wait..." Jessica calmly replied.

"Ho-ly crap...you remembered her name. Kodak moment..." Maranda said. Smart ass.

"Shh!" Girl needed to stay focused! Jessica looked at Cris and Marina with a shrug. They just looked back at her with raised eyebrows before they looked at each other and shrugged themselves. "What do you guys think? This is your gig too." Yes, she was trying to include them as best as she could. She wasn't used to consulting anyone on the field, and she wasn't used to having people on her team that didn't follow her exact orders down to a T like her cousins. Jessica watched the turtle dragons get ready. "And I'd hurry up with your answer..."

Bailey noticed Megan being really quiet, she usually had some really good inputs for strategical advances.

"You good?"

"I ran from Prowl.. He's going to be so mad when I get back." She held her temples with a sigh.

"Megs..." Jessica checked the turtle dragons again, making sure she wasn't being too loud. "We need you to focus, they aren't in control of themselves. They could hurt people."

Megan stared off with a haunted expression, the coldness and hardness in her eyes was back tenfold. She looked so much older and scarred, but nodded. "Alright. I'm good. Too late to go back now anyway."

"Have some nice make up sex, it'll all be good." Maranda oh so kindly added. Megan gave her an irritated look, but waved her off. Carrie couldn't help an annoyed and embarrassing facepalm.

Vicky had gotten close enough by now that she could almost touch Leo's tail tip. She so much wanted to touch him, to reassure herself that this was indeed her missing love. To have the feel of him against her skin again. She was so close to him...

The sound of an incoming train horn sounded out loudly in the valley.

"It's time!" One of the soldiers shouted out then. "Get them ready!"

And with those few words Leo stood up and his tail slipped out of her reach. Vicky's mouth began to mouth out every curse she knew and any combination she could put them in, her head bobbing with the

vehemence she forced them out.

The train made it's appearance then, coming around the bend that led into the valley. Once it did, the dragons took to the air, their eyes intently watching it as it rapidly closed in. In moments they would sink their claws into it and it would be a repeat of what she saw on the news. Desperation to stop that from happening forced her onto her feet and the words were ripped out of her throat before she could stop them. "God damn it!" She shouted loudly in her frustration. "Leo! Don't!"

That of course clued all the guards in that they weren't alone anymore and Vicky suddenly found herself in the middle of a whole bunch of unwanted attention.

Cris rolled her eyes as she brought her hanbo out of it's holder. "I think that just answered the question if we should do something or not!" She informed her companions before she came out of her crouch in a run, her hanbo already twirling around her as she closed in on her loose lipped sister. With their cover now blown, all of them came to their feet and explode into motion as the train began to pass.

"Fuuuuuck..." Vicky muttered as she realized what she had set off. Her hands went to her own belt and the asps came out and were extended before her mouth finished getting the word out. Vicky engaged the group that surrounded her. Anger fueled her movements as she caught one guard and slammed his head into a tree. Repeatedly and in rapid succession. Then she cleared the rest out with a leaping circle kick before she again ran towards the dragons, calling out to them as she went.

Leo had barely made it off of the ground and just hovered there, his eyes blinking in confusion at her calls. If she could only reach him, maybe she could-

A blow hard enough to knock the wind out of her connected with her side and sent her to the ground, groaning as her arm held the spot that was throbbing like hell now. God _damn_ that smarts!

Maranda quickly pulled her AK and started executing goons, left and right, yelling to her cousins in a different language, then threw her knife in the air. Megan dove over her, kicking the knife straight through a head of a goon. Then she ran at him, dodging bullet fire with grace and precision. She did a round off and snagged up the Bowie knife and threw it at another bad dude, and dove out of the way, pulling her glock and emptied some round into some men near her. Slitting a throat in one swipe with her knife and getting a few more shots in, dropping the men like flies.

Carrie was going hand on hand with a dude too. He managed to twist the knife from her hand, to which she calmly caught it with her foot, kicked it clean through his head. The second he went down she had her gun out, taking pristine head shots. One came up from behind her but she merely ignored him and kicked her knife that finally decided to come back down into the chest of another bad guy.

Maranda ran the dude coming up on her cousin through the chest with her knife and punched him away, then caught another blow from a goon, head butting him, and did a combo kick to a couple more trying to

surround her. Then looked over at Vicky, keeping herself aware of the battle around her but knew her cousins were paying attention and were ready to aid her.

"I don't think so my dear." A smug voice reached her ears as she gasped for air. "He's not yours anymore, he's mine."

"No he isn't-" Vicky started to snap out, then stopped with wide eyes at who she was looking at. No...it couldn't be... "Bishop..."

The grin he gave her was full of gleeful malice as he looked down at her. "Let me prove it to you." His eyes never left the prone woman as he directed his words to the blue banded dragon. "Leonardo! Do be kind enough to pick up my cargo please."

Leo shook off his confusion and once again flew towards the train. Bishop smiled in amusement as his point was made before he stepped on Vicky's throat.

Jessica kicked Bishop off of her, sending him tumbling and rolling. Then grabbed her hand and lifted her back up to her feet, not taking her eyes off of the offender. "Alright. not liking you..." she decided with distaste. Well, in all reality, she liked a very few people of the human population.

Bishop just narrowed his eyes at this unexpected interruption. "You shouldn't have gotten involved." Jessica just stared at him, why did he sound like he was expecting/knew her? Dude was psychotic...

Vicky took that moment of distraction to run around the man and once again ran towards Leo who was already lowering himself to the still passing train with Raph. Their eyes searching as they seemed to wait for a particular train car to pass them by.

Someone beat her to it. Ty and Thane were in the trees near where the dragons hovered and they tossed their cousins out over the gap. Dante and Ari landed easily in light crouches on the dragon backs.

"Uncle Leo! Stop!" Ari pleaded as she hit. "You have to stop this!"

Dante was already running along the spine of Raph's back and was heading for his head. "Snap out of it! Since when do you work for the bad guys!"

Those large heads turned away from the train as they stared blankly at their passengers, and in that distraction the train moved on and the last car moved by the group unmolested. It now made it's way down the track towards it's destination, and it still had all its cargo.

Bishop let out a frustrated growl over the fact he didn't get what he had come here for, and he fueled the punch he gave Jessica with that frustration, knocking her away from him before he turned towards the dragons. "Change of plans my pets." His eyes lit up with evil amusement. "Finish them off instead."

"Well, that's pretty fucking rude to be honest" Maranda declared.

Leo's eyes immediately locked onto Ari. The blonde turtle found herself in a bit of a pickle when his mouth opened and that tell tale blue glow formed from deep in his throat. She wouldn't have time to get out of the way in time for that hit. "Uh oh..." The teen pursed her lips as that glow brightened. How in the heck was she going to get out of the way of this? ...Maaaaan, this was going to hurt...

7. Chapter 7

Ari was still staring down the throat of a fire breathing Leo who was about to barbecue her ass. She was so close to him he was going to hit her no matter what she did to evade. Then she wasn't alone. Bailey had somehow made it up there with the young turtle. Quickly she pulled the girl to her and spun with her around to where her back was facing Leo's mouth. Then, to Ari's pure shock and amazement, pure white wings unfolded from her back to fold protectively around Ari as Leo's breath came in one long stream. Bailey held firm, even as Ari was looking wide eyed at the wings that shielded her, then looked at her rescuer, not quite wanting to believe what she was seeing.

Bailey just gave her a slight smile and a wink. "I suppose you were going to find out sooner or later." Then she winced a bit, held Ari tighter and leapt up into the air, easily carrying her burden before she landed well out of Leo's range. Then she gently put Ari down and proceeded to flap the hell out of her severely burnt wing. "Ahhh ah! Ah! Hoooot!" she finally patted the fire and got it out, then glared a seething hole into Bishop when she saw the bald spot on her wing. It was a little red too, but healing.

Well, when Maranda saw the bald spot, she was about to laugh, but frantically smacked a hand over her mouth to keep from doing just that. The rest of the NEST soldiers just give her a sympathetic look. It was freaking embarrassing to lose feathers on your wings! Let alone get bald spots like that.

Bailey snarled at Bishop viciously. This is why Maranda didn't laugh, when her cousin was pissed, any of them, you held your tongue. Bailey gave one big clap in Bishop's direction like when the Hulk is angry and claps his hands. Huh, actually pretty accurate to the scene. Anyway, this huge blast of air sent that dude very, very high, spinning in the air with the force alone. She watched with a glare as he hit several branches on the way down

"Piece of fucking shit" she growled. He was already on her shit list for taking innocent beings and brain washing them, but this? She puffed up her remaining feathers like a bird, with an angry huff.

Maranda and Carrie held their arms straight up into the air indicating field goal, then gave each other a high five that they thought about it at the same time.

Cris actually broke out into laughter at the dual field goal indicators, then was suddenly reminded that standing there laughing over stupid crap might not be the best idea when you have not thinking right dragons flying around. Or in Donnie's case, landing to squish her. "Shit!" She squeaked and proceeded to haul ass out of his

drop zone, and the fire he sent her way.

Jessica watched her cousins, then slowly reached for her temples to hold them with one hand while muttering: "Oh my god... This is going to be a long day."

Vicky gave her fellow leader a long look as she pointed to the burnt winged Bailey. "Goes for both of us. When exactly where you going to tell me about that?"

"Next Tuesday? Tuesdays are bad days anyway, so..." Jessica just shrugged.

Dante was holding on for dear life. Simply because he had a firm grip on Raph's horn, and the big red banded dragon wanted him off. That massive head was shaking rapidly back and forth. "A-a l-lit-tle h-he-lp p-plea-ease!" Came the frantic call of the yellow masked turtle as his body was yanked in all directions.

Ari was running up Donnie's back while he was still distracted with Cris and didn't stop when she reached his head. Then she did a diveboard spring off of his snout and flew towards her ragdoll cousin in a forward somersault. Her hands found a secure grip on Dante as she flew past and pulled him with her as he momentum kept them both going. They disappeared into the nearby canopy of trees, unseen but not unheard as they crashed their way to the ground. Amongst the sounds of numerous branches breaking you heard, "Ow! Ow! _Ow!_ OOOOWWWW!" Then they came back into view as they both fell out of the tree and slammed into the ground. "Ouch! Damn it!" Ari got to her feet, now rubbing her tender backside where she landed. "That went so much better in my head..."

"Listen up ladies!" Jessica called to her team. "No swords for obvious reasons, and no guns. That one will just piss them off. Go against the turtle dragon of your element. We're here to catch them, not hurt them." Her cousins cautiously confronted a dragon each, watching them. They haven't fought this specific kind of dragon, and wanted to go at it slow and study them to know fully what their abilities consisted of. "Understood?" Jessica didn't really ask the question, it was an order if anything.

"Yes Supereon!" they all look determined and focused now.

Jessica shouted something in a foreign language, with a controlling strong tone, and her cousins began their advancement on the turtle dragon of their element. Jessica risked a glance at everyone

"You you guys good?"

"Just peachy." Vicky muttered back as she and Marina found themselves caught between Leo and Mikey. Frustration was rapidly filling her as she looked from Mikey, then to Leo. She tried to reach out to him, and found herself slamming into that mental block that was still just as firmly in place. She needed that bond to get through to him, and she couldn't use it. She was about to scream in frustration. He was right here in front of her, but he might as well have been on the other side of the moon or something. "Please! Leo it's me! Stop!"

He didn't stop. Not much anyway. He paused a moment, his foot stopping in mid air in the act of placing it down. Vicky caught onto

it. "Leo..." Marina kept a cautious eye on Mikey as Vicky took a step towards her husband. "Leo please...don't do this..." His eyes met hers and for a moment she saw them soften. Then they went flat again and he lowered his head and lunged.

Vicky squealed in shock at how quickly he turned back. His head was coming rapidly towards her now, mouth open and all those sharp teeth aiming for her. Marina was dodging the mirror version in Mikey. Then the blue eyed woman firmly grabbed Vicky and leapt out of the way of that dragon jaw trap. Their heads slammed together just moment after Marina and Vicky cleared out of their way, now rolling across the ground.

Ty and Thane then were there to help the women to their feet as the dragons shook off the hit. Vicky's son was now trying to pull her farther back. "Mom! This isn't working!"

Vicky just snarled as she ripped her arm out of his hand. "I have to keep trying!" And her footsteps lead her straight towards the charging dragon.

This time there was no hesitation in him as he brought his head in low to snap at her once more. Ty tackled her out of the way of those jaws just shy of them snapping shut on her. "You can't get through to him!" He was just as frustrated as she was, but Vicky wasn't sure which parent he was actually frustrated with.

Megan drew Leo's attention from his family as she calmly walked up. She didn't even flinch when he sent a wave of dragon fire at her. She raised a hand, and sent a pulse of water right in his face, going in his mouth to extinguish the flames, up his nostrils, and into his eyes, right after she cut the stream off, she quickly spun in a reverse roundhouse kick into Leo's dragon face, sending him sliding on the ground.

Maranda got her first taste of Raph's temper as he brought his tail around and slammed the fuck out of her with it when she faced off with him. That hit sent her flying and she disappeared into the trees.

Thane winced a little at that. "I hope she's ok..." Then something dawned on him and his eyes grew wide. "Wait...they have fucking _wings_" He stared at Maranda as she reappeared.

Maranda gave a low growl as she flew back out of the trees, gaining enough momentum so when her kick connected to Raph she had him skidding across the ground like his brother. Then flared her wings in a challenging manner, crouching a little. Her hand nabbed a twig from her hair, so much irritation built up, she put the twig between her fingers and flicked it away before getting ready for another strike. "Lucky shot reptile."

Dante stunned Thane right back out of his stupor as he ran by. And he did it by popping his cousin on the head. "Stay focused! Uncle Mikey on our ass!"

Thane turned to see his uncle stomping towards him. "Shit!" His tone and pitch matched his mother's exactly from when she spat out the same word earlier. Then he turned and hauled ass as he followed Dante.

Bailey twirled gracefully through the air, kicking Mikey away from them to get his attention on her. "Come on bud" the young brunette took a fighting pose, wings flared like one of those kick ass lizards off of Jurassic park, now that you have that image in your head, that's it, it's there to stay.

Marina and Caitlin were trying to get out of Donnie's way as he closed in on them, then the large dragon paused and looked at Carrie. Who gave him a look of strong disapproval, despite her fun size height, she was pretty motherly. She crossed her wrists together to stop his tail from hitting her, her feet slid a little at the force of impact, then she sand blasted him, not sure exactly how much power she could put behind her attack, they weren't suppose to hurt them after all.

Donnie brought up a wing to shield himself from those tiny particles, a low growl coming out of his throat. Finally he got annoyed enough to snap that wing down before he raised up onto his haunches and let himself just fall right on top of Carrie.

Carrie was faster than Donnie though, she scaled his wing, grabbed his head, twisting in the air, causing Donnie's head and neck to twist before his body followed and he just ended up doing a harmless flop on the ground.

"And his name is John Cena!" she rolled away from Don.

Donnie stomped a paw on Carrie before she could roll too far to hold her down. Then his head lowered with a menacing growl, Carrie caught it with her hands, looking up at him unamused, then moved his paw away from her and got ready for a different angle of an attack.

By this point all of the turtle family was staring at their companions. So far none had been able to match the dragons...but they were holding their own easily.

"What are they supposed to be?" Thane asked, more than a little bewildered. "Superpowered fairies or somethin'?"

His family just shrugged, not sure what to tell him. They quickly knew they were outmatched in this fight, on both ends. All they could do was watch as these two forces collided.

Raph had rolled back to his feet and came right back in. His jaws snapping viciously and Maranda dodging and weaving out of the way of those very sharp teeth. Finally Raph got a deep bite on Maranda's shoulder, who ignored it so she can pivot on her heels and give Thane a: "really mother fucker?" look. She grumbled and waited for Raph to release her in order to breathe fire. When he did, she held her hand up, stopping it in midair and collected it into a ball. Then threw it right back in his face. "Doesn't feel so good does it!" A nice Spartan kick to the chest sent him down to the ground again.

Raph just threw another one at her, standing while she was distracted. And when she went to deflect it, his paw connected with her and she went to go visit the trees again.

The turtle family just calmly watched her as she went by over their heads.

"That's getting to be a habit." Thane noted.

"Yup." TY agreed calmly.

Mikey rolled with the hit he received from Bailey and stopped on his feet, digging his claws in to put a halt to his momentum. He looked at this tiny woman in front of him, blinking in confusion. Then those eyes narrowed as he sized her up before he turned and promptly plopped his backside down right on top of her.

Vicky facepalmed. "Even in brainwash mode he does Mikey crap..."

White aura built around Mikey's big, dragon ass, and wind slammed up into Mikey, shooting him straight up, several feet, so Ariel could angrily get up and stomp away from the now falling dragon. "Fucker sat on me!" She actually wasn't that angry with him, it was more of a pout. Internally her emotions were a mix of "WTF" and a: "so I can cross that off my bucket list, dragon sitting on me, your argument is invalid"

Bre and Jessica tried desperately not to laugh at their cousin.

"Well. Sure sign he's in there somewhere." Jessica muffled her laughter

Mikey recovered in the air and glided back to the ground and circled Bailey, his head held low and lips pulled back into a snarl. Bailey spread her wings at him, doing what Maranda was doing, challenging him.

Leo's tail came up behind Megan and connected with her hard enough to send her into the air over him and she landed on his other side in a roll before she got back to her feet with her momentum, calmly looking at him.

She turned to face Leo. Tilting her head at him, as if she was trying to tell him something, her blue eyes burning a hole into his reptile ones.

Bre and Jessica noticed it and looked at her "Aqua! You good?" Bre asked. What did they call her? Aqua? Well, it made sense based on her powers, but, did they give themselves false names? Like, in all seriousness?

Megan or Aqua, apparently nodded her head and charged Leo.

But on the other hand, Leo met that gaze and seemed held by it while she was all but starting into his soul. He stared at her intently, his own eyes searching. Then to the surprise of his watching family...he shook his head in confusion and even backed up a step.

Vicky cautiously walked closer, her hope rising in her chest at this sight. "Leo? Please love...it's us. Snap out of it..."

Again his head shook and another step was taken away from them all. Vicky bit her bottom lip as she watched.

Ty was next to her now. "Dad, we know you're in there...you can beat this."

His head shook even harder this time. He paused a moment, his confused eyes looking at those in front of him. Even from where she was standing she could see the tear slide down his cheek as he watched them. Then those eyes took on that distant look again before he roared loudly at them. His wings flared out and lifted him into the air and flew west, with his brothers following. Heeding a call their family couldn't hear.

Megan lowered her head with a sigh, but sucked her emotions back up into their rightful void, making herself recover, then traveled back over to her leader for orders.

"Leo!" Vicky screamed, her hope gone and heartbroken as she watched him fly off. "Damn it! Come back!" Tears filled her eyes as she collapsed to her knees and sat on her legs, the sense of defeat washing over her. "Come back..."

Ty sighed as he pulled his mother back onto her feet and into his arms. "You tried Mom."

"So close!" Vicky began to sob into his chest. "We were so close... If I could just get past that damn spirit block...but I can't..." She cried harder against Ty. And he just held her, not knowing what else to do as his own anguish crossed his features.

"Supereon" Megan said to get Jessica's attention as she watched the dragons take flight again. Sure they could chase them down, but there was no cure for them and no way to keep them trapped and secured, so going after them was pointless right now.

"What is it Aquarius?"

"What are we going to do?"

Jessica could only watch them with her, for once, she didn't know, but they needed to act fast.

End
file.